

# Serving Washington Veterans



## Joint Committee on Veterans & Military Affairs

September 17, 2013



*"Serving Those Who Served"*



## **Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee VAAC**

- 17 members, appointed by the Governor
- Represent veterans & their families to the Governor and the WDVA Director
- Hold meetings in different areas of state
  - Find out what is happening in various communities
  - Share information with veterans and service providers on new programs, services or changes to state or federal law.



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## WDVA Snapshot

- Vision: All Washington Veterans & Their Families will be Connected to the Benefits and Services they Earned.
- Cabinet level agency
  - Veterans Cemetery & Agency Administration
  - Veterans Homes
  - Veterans Services & Behavioral Health



## State Veterans Cemetery – Medical Lake

- Dedicated in 2010
- 1,347 Interments through 2012
- \$374,000 of annual operational budget earned through the sale of Armed Forces License Plates.





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## State Veterans Homes

- Located in Orting, Retsil and Spokane
- 516 Beds for veterans, their spouses, widows, or Gold Star Parents.
- \$93 million biennial budget

- Walla Walla in design phase, 80 beds, small house model, 100 jobs will be created. (State funds 35% and federal VA funds 65% of construction/equipment costs.)
- Increased demand for dementia and gero-psychiatric services. Budget request to determine how we can meet this demand.
- Health and Safety budget request to demolish 2 buildings at Retsil.



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## **Veterans Services & Behavioral Health Program**

- Support for Transitioning Military Personnel
- Homeless Veterans Services & Transitional Housing
- Veterans Innovations Program
- Veterans Estate Management Program
- Contracts with Veteran Service Organizations
- Veterans Estate Management Program
- Behavioral Health & PTSD Counseling Outpatient program
  - Serves 3,500 veterans and family members
  - Veteran Training Support Center trains first responders, community providers and others who may be the first to encounter a veteran in crisis.
  - Support to County Veteran Treatment Courts

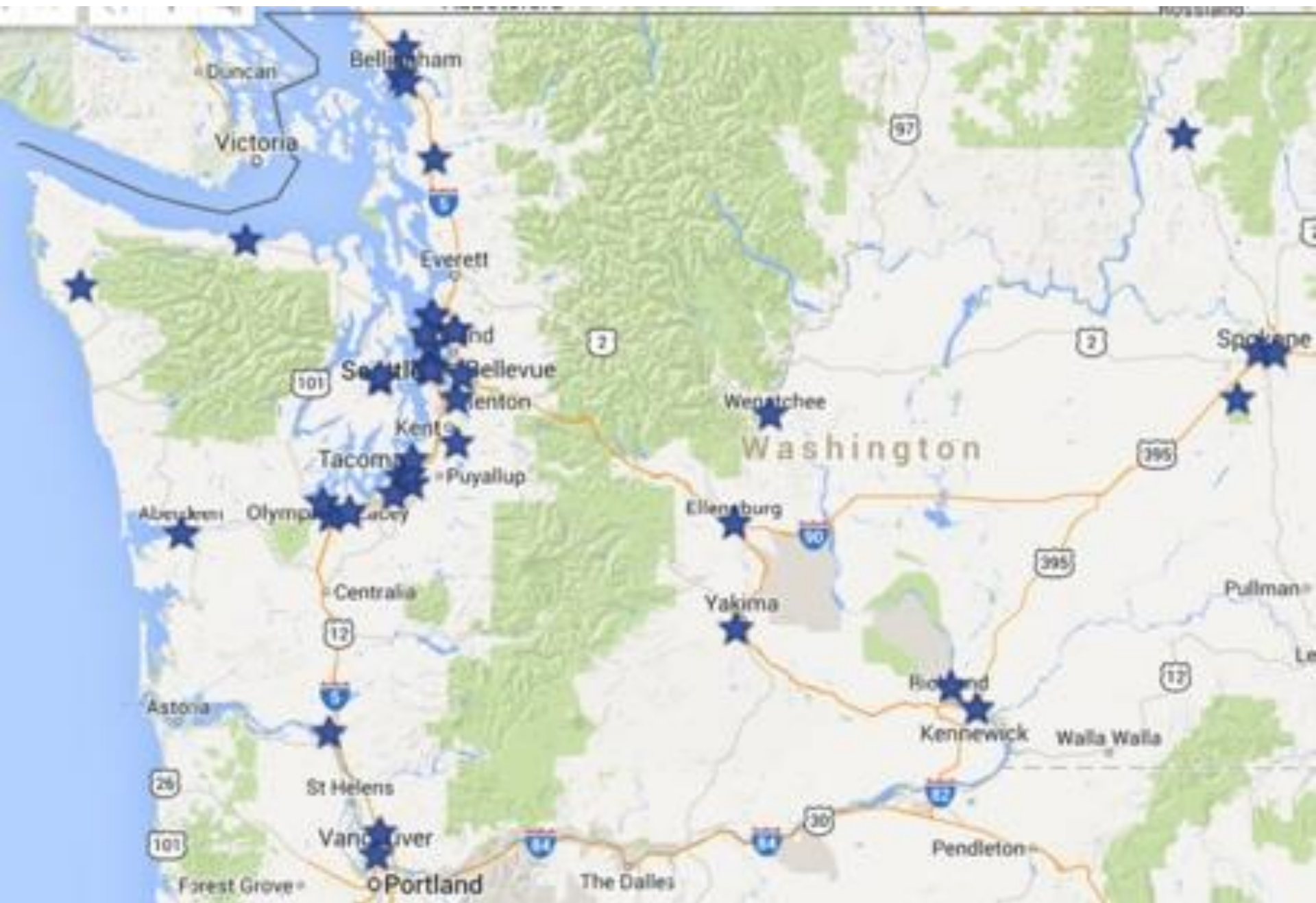


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## Vet Corps

- WDVA started the first Vet Corps in the nation
- 50 Members funded through an AmeriCorps Grant
  - Members serve 43 Campuses, JBLM, Fairchild and Naval Base Kitsap
  - Work with College Certifying Officials or Veterans Representatives, encourage schools to become Partners for Veteran Supportive Campuses
  - Help students navigate the GI Bill and Financial Aid Office
  - Provide connections with federal, state or local veterans benefits







## Vet Corps Results:

- Eastern Washington University Veterans Resource Room.
- WSU Tri Cities Veterans Memorial
- Seattle area Vet Corps Members now coordinate the Seattle Stand Down
- Spokane Falls Community College Bikes for Veterans

